Appl. No. 10/602,495 Response dated January 29, 2005 Reply to Office Action of 11/16/2004 ED 535013357 US

## **Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## **Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1-44 (canceled)

Claim 45 (currently amended):

A method comprising:

supporting a human on a support surface; and

cleaning an anal region of the human by accessing the anal region through an aperture in the support surface, wherein the aperture provides posterior access to the human and the aperture eliminates pressure on a portion of the human's buttocks.

Claim 46 (currently amended):

A method comprising:

supporting a human on a support surface; and

inspecting an area of the human selected from the group consisting of a lower spine spinal region of the human's anatomy and an anal region by accessing a posterior region of the human through an aperture in the support surface.

Appl. No. 10/602,495 Response dated January 29, 2005 Reply to Office Action of 11/16/2004

ED 535013357 US

Claim 47 (original): The method of claim 46, further comprising:

administering medical services to the human through the aperture in the support surface.

Claim 48 (new): The method of claim 47, wherein during the administering medical services someone other than the human treats a decubitus ulcer on the human.

Claim 49 (new): The method of claim 45, further comprising:

administering medical services to the human through the aperture in the support surface.

Claim 50 (new): The method of claim 49, wherein during the administering medical services someone other than the human treats a decubitus ulcer on the human.

Claim 51 (new): The method of claim 46, further comprising:

capturing a view of the human through the aperture, wherein the view is captured in the form of an electronic image and the view is capable of being used during the inspecting.

Appl. No. 10/602,495 Response dated January 29, 2005 Reply to Office Action of 11/16/2004 ED 535013357 US

Claim 52 (new): The method of claim 51, wherein the electronic image is transmitted wirelessly to a display device.

Claim 53 (new): The method of claim 51, wherein someone other than the human performs the inspecting.

Claim 54 (new): A method comprising:

supporting a human on a support surface wherein an aperture in the support surface eliminates pressure on a portion of the human's buttocks, while the human's legs and back are supported by the support surface.

Claim 55 (new): The method of claim 54, wherein the aperture in the support surface relieves pressure on a lower spinal region of the human's anatomy.

Claim 56 (new): The method of claim 54, further comprising:

utilizing a privacy panel to obstruct a view of the human, wherein the privacy panel is releasably coupled with the support surface.

Claim 57 (new): The method of claim 54, wherein a portion of the support surface used to support the human's legs is sloped.

Appl. No. 10/602,495

Response dated January 29, 2005

Reply to Office Action of 11/16/2004

ED 535013357 US

Claim 58 (new):

The method of claim 54, wherein the support surface

includes arm rests that are sloped, such that the human's hand on an arm can be

at a different elevation than the human's elbow on the arm.

Claim 59 (new): The method of claim 54, wherein a first portion of the support

surface, that supports the human's legs, is flexibly coupled to a second portion of

the support surface that supports the human's back.

Claim 60 (new):

A method comprising:

providing posterior access to a sacral region of a human's anatomy when

the human's legs and back are supported on a support surface.

Claim 61 (new):

The method of claim 60, further comprising:

eliminating pressure on the sacral region of the human's anatomy.

Claim 62 (new):

The method of claim 60, further comprising:

providing posterior access to a lower spinal region of the human's

anatomy.

Claim 63 (new):

The method of claim 62, further comprising:

eliminating pressure on the lower spinal region of the human's anatomy.

Claim 64 (new):

The method of claim 60, further comprising:

Appl. No. 10/602,495

Response dated January 29, 2005

Reply to Office Action of 11/16/2004

ED 535013357 US

utilizing a privacy panel to obstruct a view of the human supported on the

support surface, wherein the privacy panel is releasably coupled with the support

surface.

Claim 65 (new):

The method of claim 60, wherein a sloped portion of the

support surface is used to support the human's legs.

Claim 66 (new):

The method of claim 60, wherein the support surface

includes arm rests that are sloped, such that the human's hand on an arm can be

at a different elevation than the human's elbow on the arm.

Claim 67 (new):

The method of claim 60, wherein a portion of the support

surface that supports the human's legs is flexibly coupled to a portion of the

support surface that supports the human's back.

Claim 68 (new):

A method comprising:

providing a support surface for a human wherein the support surface is

capable of supporting the human's legs and back, the support surface includes

an aperture and the aperture is capable of eliminating pressure on a portion of

the human's buttocks when the human is supported on the support surface.

Claim 69 (new):

The method of claim 68, wherein the aperture is capable of

reducing pressure on a lower spinal region of the human's anatomy.

Page 6 of 23

Appl. No. 10/602,495 Response dated January 29, 2005 Reply to Office Action of 11/16/2004 ED 535013357 US

Claim 70 (new): The method of claim 68, wherein the aperture is capable of providing posterior access to a sacral region of the human's anatomy.

Claim 71 (new): The method of claim 68, further comprising:

utilizing a privacy panel to obstruct a view of the human that can be supported on the support surface, wherein the privacy panel is releasably coupled with the support surface.

Claim 72 (new): The method of claim 68, wherein a portion of the support surface, which is capable of supporting the human's legs is sloped.

Claim 73 (new): The method of claim 68, wherein the support surface includes arm rests that are sloped, such that the human's hand on an arm can be at a different elevation than the human's elbow on the arm.

Claim 74 (new): The method of claim 68, wherein a first portion of the support surface that can support the human's legs is flexibly coupled to a second portion of the support surface that can support the human's back.